Review of gas purchase from Iran

2778. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1458 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether India has dropped the plan of bringing natural gas from Iran through Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons for dropping the plan; and

(c) the names of the countries with whom India has been contacting to import gas and oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There is no decision for laying of natural gas pipeline from Iran through Pakistan.

(c) Natural gas can be imported through pipeline and in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Possibility of importing natural gas through pipeline is being explored from Iran, Bangladesh and Myanmar. As regards, import of LNG, there are several initiatives for import of LNG. However, only Dahej LNG Terminal of Petronet LNG Ltd. at Dahej, Gujarat and Shell Hazira LNG projects are progressing. For Dahej, LNG is being imported from Oman. As regards import of oil, it is being imported from various traditional sources such as Malaysia, Libya, Saudi Arab, some Middle East countries etc.

Royalty on crude Oil

2779. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3007 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 2001 and state:

(a) what is the rate of royalty on crude oil and gas in the NELP;

(b) whether these rates are less than the prevailing royalty rates;

(c) if so, whether there is any move by the Central Government to compensate; and

(d) what is the lower royalty rates payable to the State Government?